SECRET



SAPC-11703
Copy 1 of 3

19 December 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: Project Director

THROUGH : Contracting Officer SAC 12/19/56

SUBJECT, : General Purpose medium capacity electronic computer

REFERENCE : Memorandum to Project Director dated 13 November 1956 from Chief, Technical Intelligence Branch, entitled "Computational Problems of the Technical Intelligence Branch of the Photographic Intelligence Division".

1. [redacted] Chief, Technical Intelligence Branch visited this office 17 December 1956. The subject discussed was the need of a computer by his branch to support this project. The computer would be used for photogrammetric calculations pertaining to our photography. The computer would replace the requirement for set of tables proposed by Jim Baker. 25X1

2. The computer [redacted] wishes to obtain is Librascopes' LGP-30 computer. Price is approximately $35,000 to $40,000 with a 3 month delivery time. It is visualized that a separate maintainance contract would also have to be awarded for perhaps a year to assure computer reliability. 25X1

3. My findings as a result of the discussion are as follows:

A. The computer could be used by [redacted] Branch to analyze Project photography. However, the computer could also be used for other projects (i. e. P2V, EDP etc.). 25X1

B. CRR has the responsibility of budgeting for equipment to exploit photography and other media.

C. CRR states they did not budget for equipment to extract information for our photography. [redacted] stated CRR budgets only for equipment which can be used for "Standard" or "Conventional" systems. 25X1

D. There seems to be a tendency on CRR's part to depend on the various projects to supply the funds and equipment for the projects' take. This practice, I believe is expensive and tends to limit the utilization of equipments. An example is the equipment purchased for Genetrix. When that project was discontinued the equipment became surplus due to its limited utilization. Briefly, equipment purchased by each project because of its specialized task is usually of such a nature that it cannot be utilized for other types of work.

SECRET

SECRET

4. [redacted] stated he will also attempt to get support from TSS to finance the computer. He further stated if OER did purchase computer out of their own funds (this point may be academic since OER has no funds) our project would have no assurance that the computer would be used exclusively for our purposes. 25X1

5. I recalled a meeting at Art Lundahl's place on 13 December 1956. Various Service representatives were present to express their views regarding interest in various rectifier, viewers, stereoscopes etc. At this time rectifiers for trackers, B and C cameras were discussed. Rectification of B and C photography would cancel the need for a computer. However, rectifiers for B and C would be at least a year away from operational use after a contract was awarded.

Conclusion:

This project could efficiently use the type of computer recommended by [redacted] in his memorandum. However there are other approaches to the problem concerning equipment to utilize Project take. 25X1

1. Use Jim Bakers tables until such time as rectifiers are available for B and C photography. Some $78,000 has been transferred from AQUATONE to HTAUTOMAT for this procurement of a B photo rectifier.

2. Obtain a computer thereby giving OER the potential to make up their own tables and grids. In addition the instrument would be used for more detailed analysis.

3. Use a computer - rectifier combination. First, step would be to obtain the computer. Then if and when rectifiers are obtained the major effort of the computer could be relegated to other projects.

Recommendation:

Not being fully conversant with such important factors as (1) Availability of proper and numbers of personnel (2) Volume of photography to be analyzed (3) Types of informational data desired (4) Dimensional accuracy needed and (5) Speed required to analyze raw data. I can only approach the problem from the standpoint of overall utilization time for phase-in of equipment and economy.

I feel a computer - rectifier combination would pay for itself in the long run. Initial outlay cost wise would be relatively high but the equipment as designed would have general utilization and consequently could be used for a variety of tasks within OER on tasks or problems generated by projects other than our own. With these facts in mind, I believe this Project should not feel duty bound to finance the total cost of the computer or of all the rectifiers.

[redacted] 25X1

SECRET